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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 407  
By Wood

A RESOLUTION to designate the second week of May 2003 as  
"Food Allergy Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize the efforts of those exemplary groups that educate the public about the many dangers posed by food allergies; and

WHEREAS, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) is one such group: a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about food allergies and anaphylaxis, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Americans die each year due to food-induced anaphylaxis; these deaths are caused by individuals unknowingly eating a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic; and

WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction involving major organs in the body simultaneously; in severely allergic individuals, anaphylaxis can cause death in a matter of minutes; and

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WHEREAS, while researchers estimate that six to seven million Americans have food allergies, children are the largest group affected; and

WHEREAS, eight foods cause 90% of all food allergy reactions: shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat; symptoms of a severe allergic reaction include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and

WHEREAS, eating in restaurants and at school are the situations posing the highest risk for people with allergies, as the staff in these arenas are often unaware of the ingredients used to prepare the food they are serving and are unprepared to handle a severe allergic reaction; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for potentially fatal food allergies; strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to avoid a reaction; and

WHEREAS, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network has taken great strides in its efforts to educate the public about the dangers of severe reactions to food allergies, including anaphylaxis; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the second week in May is hereby designated as "Food Allergy Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the good people of the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network for the worthy service they provide in educating the public about food allergies, and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.